



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
July 5, 2012

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## **FATAL MCDUFFIE COUNTY FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL**

**Atlanta** – State Arson Investigators, working with the McDuffie County Fire Department, said today that a July 2 house fire that killed a woman in McDuffie County has been ruled accidental.

Killed in the fire was Henrietta Few, 61. The manufactured home located in the 6200 block of Lincolnton Highway, Thomson, Ga., was destroyed. The fire call came in around 10:48 p.m.

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said the investigation revealed the fire was the result of unattended cooking on the stovetop. It is unknown if the home had a working smoke alarm.

### **Commissioner Hudgens suggested the following tips for cooking safety:**

- Always set a timer when cooking, so you never forget to turn off the burners or oven.
- If a pan catches fire, cover it with a lid immediately and turn off the burner.
- Don't attempt to fight a grease fire with water, as it may make the fire worse.
- Wear tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can contact a burner and ignite.
- Have a fire extinguisher readily available.

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